

**A B S T R A C T**

A process for forming tube-shaped hollow bodies made of metal, particularly made of aluminum, is described.

After forming a slab-shaped semifinished product into a closed cross-sectional profile and straight seam welding the opposing edges of the semifinished product, the tube-shaped hollow body is first mechanically partially expanded and/or mechanically partially reduced in an upstream processing phase. It is then soft annealed and finally hydroformed in a die by a medium introduced into the hollow body.

0994268-082804